



CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

900 Chapel Street, 9th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510-2807 • Phone (203) 498-3000 • FAX (203) 562-6314 • www.ccm-ct.org

TESTIMONY
OF THE
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 26, 2007

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) appreciates the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

Committee Bill No. 667, "An Act Concerning Funding for Local Health Departments"

This bill would increase per capita funding for local part-time and full-time health departments by fifty percent.

CCM supports Committee Bill 667. Local public health departments provide a critical function in the community and funding to them should be increased.

As demands for public health emergency planning increase, local health departments are often left stranded by the federal government – and mandated to plan for major emergencies such as a worldwide pandemic flu. Already handcuffed by limited local resources, Connecticut's local health departments must also tackle the day-to-day health issues within their districts. *Committee Bill 667 provides these departments with long over-due financial assistance to better protect their communities.*

Committee Bill 667 is a positive step toward strengthening the State's critical partnership with local and regional health departments. While additional responsibilities are being put on the municipal plate, such as West Nile detection and avian flu preparedness, *state funding for per capita grants to local health departments is actually lower than in previous years*, dipping to below \$1 dollar in per capita funding for local full and part-time departments.

CCM urges the committee to ***favorably report Committee Bill 667*** as a means of helping municipalities better protect their communities, improve local public health infrastructure, and enhance staff resources.



If you have any questions, please call Bob Labanara or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000.